(c) No, Sir.

(d) The other objections raised by the CAG are: erratic funding led to large un-utilised grants; Non submission of utilisation certificates of grants; Scaling down of Socio-Economic Programmes from 1996-2002; Records of trained personnel under Vocational Training Scheme not maintained by State Boards; Grants received from Swawlamban for setting up "Employment and Income generating training cum production centres for women" were utilised for supporting training activities only; Most of the grants or Welfare Extension Projects (CD) used only for paying staff salaris; No training course conducted for creche workers as no funds received from the Ministry under this head; and no effort made to evaluate various programmes.

(e) These observations were made in the draft reports. Many of these comments were dropped later. A Committee headed by Shri T.N. Chaturvedi, former Memer of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) was constituted to review functioning of the CSWB. The report of the Committee stated that CSWB, through its network of State Social Advisory Boards and voluntary organizations is filling the gaps where government sector does not have an outreach. The board has always geared its efforts to the needs of the societies; especially the women and children and its uniqueness lies in the fact that it is even today the only major national level organization with network in every state, funding voluntary organizations under various schemes.

Social Watch Report

2154. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have perused the observation in the first 'Social Watch Report' compiled by the National Centre for Advocacy Studies (NCAS), Delhi, that plan per capita allocation on education has declined from 30 paise in 2002-2003 to a meagre 18 paise for 2003-2004;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to this observation;

(c) the rationale behind such massive reduction in public investment in such a pivotal social area; and

(d) would not such reduced investment in education sector impede realisation of the objectives envisaged *inter-alia* in the 'Sarva Siksha Abhiyan' programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) The report titled 'Social Watch India', published jointly by Centre for Youth and Social Development, Bhubaneswar and National Centre for Advocacy Studies, Pune, has been perused. The Report *inter-alia,* mentions that in the budget for 2003-2004 'there is only a marginal increase in real per capita planned budgetary allocation in education. The education sector is given priority as borne out by the fact that the Centre Plan Outlay for eduction in X Plan is Rs. 43825 crore as compared to Rs. 24908.38 crore in the IX Plan, registering an increase of 75.94%. The Plan allocation for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is Rs. 17,000 crore during X Plan with an annual Plan Outlay of Rs. 1951.25 crore during 2003-04.

Quality of Education

2155. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how does Government rate the quality of higher/university education in the country;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to improve the quality of higher/university education; and

(c) how far has Government succeeded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Reforms in higher education are carried out as a continuous process. The objective of this process is to achieve a profound transformation of higher education in order that it becomes an effective promoter of sustainable human development commensurate with the specific requirements of the country and, at the same time, improve its relevance with closer links with the world of work and achieve quality in its teaching, research and business and community extension functions to meet the challenges of 21st century. To fulfil its constitutional